

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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O R 301540Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8531
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1922

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PDEV WA SF RH US UK
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KAUNDA INVITED AMBASSADORS MCHENRY AND LOW
TO LUNCH TO DISCUSS THE NAMIBIA SITUATION ON MAY 30. MARK CHONA
AND PUNABANTU WERE ALSO PRESENT. KAUNDA PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER
AND EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH HIS U.S. TRIP. HE SAID HE
WOULD BE DISCUSSING NAMIBIA WITH PRESIDENT NETO OVER THE WEEKEND
AND WOULD CALL A FRONTLINE SUMMIT MEETING AFTER THAT. HE THANKED
US FOR THE PAPER ON RESPONSES TO SWAPO'S CRITICISMS TO PROPOSALS
AND REVIEWED EACH, EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE
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POSITION OF THE FIVE. THE PRESIDENT DENIED CHIPANGA'S CHARGE OF
NAMIBIANS UNDER DETENTION IN ZAMBIA. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT KAUNDA STARTED OFF THE BUSINESS CONVERSATION BEFORE
LUNCH WITH THE STATEMENT "YOU HAVE A FANTASTIC PRESIDENT; WE ALL
HAVE A FANTASTIC LEADER." HE SPOKE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
"TRANSPARENT HONESTY" AND WENT ON AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT HOW

IMPRESSED HE WAS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. TURNING TO NAMIBIA, KAUNDA SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM IN DEPTH WITH PRESIDENT NETO WHOSE UNDERSTANDING OF THE MATTER HE FELT WAS KEY TO A SOLUTION. THEY WOULD NOT BE MEETING WITH SAM NUJOMA BUT RATHER REVIEWING THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS THEMSELVES. KAUNDA THANKED MCHENRY FOR THE PAPER ON RESPONSES TO SWAPO GIVEN MARK CHONA AND PROCEEDED TO A DISCUSSION OF EACH OF THEM. ON WALVIS BAY, HE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD NUJOMA THAT HE SHOULD FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THE CUBANS WHO WERE TRAINING SOME OF HIS FORCES, AND WHO TOLERATED THE EXISTENCE OF GUANTANAMO ON THEIR TERRITORY. HE FELT THAT AS LONG AS THE FIVE WERE PREPARED TO STATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR LATER INTEGRATION OF WALVIS BAY INTO NAMIBIA THIS SHOULD SATISFY THE MATTER.

4. ON MILITARY FORCE LEVELS, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE 1500 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP FIGURE AS LONG AS IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UN FORCES OUTNUMBERED THEM AND WERE IN A POSITION TO DOMINATE THE SITUATION. MCHENRY NOTED THAT OUR OWN ESTIMATES AND, WE BELIEVE, THOSE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL CALLED FOR A LEVEL OF UN TROOPS ABOVE THAT WHICH NUJOMA WAS DEMANDING. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO AVOID A POLITICAL DISPUTE OVER THE MATTER AND TO LEAVE IT BASED ON A TECHNICAL DECISION OF THE NUMBERS NEEDED. KAUNDA NODDED. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE PRISONERS ISSUE AS LONG AS THEY WERE ALL RELEASED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. HERE KAUNDA DIGRESSED TO SAY THAT HE HEARD OVER THE BBC THE PREVIOUS EVENING THAT CHIPANGA WAS CLAIMING THAT ZAMBIA HELD 700 NAMIBIANS UNDER DETENTION. HE SAID HE WANTED MCHENRY TO KNOW THAT ALL NAMIBIANS WHO HAD ONCE BEEN HELD HAD BEEN RELEASED. SOME RETURNED TO SWAPO AND SOME WENT TO THE REFUGEE CAMP AT MAHEBA WHERE THEY ARE LIVING FREELY. MCHENRY SAID THAT CHIPANGA MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO A STORY WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATING THAT THE NAMIBIANS WHO RETURNED TO SWAPO WERE SEGREGATED FROM THE REST OF THE FORCE AND GUARDED. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT THEY HAD RETURNED TO SWAPO VOLUNTARILY. HE HAD NOT HEARD THE STORY OF THEIR SEPARATION, BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

6. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR LOW ON HIS RETURN FROM HIS MEETING WITH NETO. LOW NOTED LATER THAT HE MAY HAVE LEFT LUSAKA FOR SALISBURY, ENGAGED IN WHAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA CALLED "YOUR OTHER ERRAND," AND ASKED THAT THE INFORMATION BE PASSED TO CHARGE CLINGERMAN. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT MCHENRY WAS GOING TO ANGOLA. THE LATTER EXPLAINED THAT NASCIMENTO AND JORGE WERE NOW IN THE U.S. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT NUJOMA WAS PROBABLY OUT OF TOWN AND

IN VIEW OF THE EMOTIONAL REACTION TO THE RAID ON CASSINGA MIGHT NOT WANT TO MEET WITH HIM AT THIS POINT. THEREFORE MCHENRY WAS INCLINED NOT TO GO TO ANGOLA. KAUNDA NODDED AND SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT MADE SENSE.

7. DURING LUNCH THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT THE ZAMBIAN MINISTERS WOULD TRAVEL TO ANGOLA ON FRIDAY, HE HIMSELF FOLLOWING THEM ON SATURDAY AND RETURNING SUNDAY. CHONA INDICATED THAT THE FRONTLINE SUMMIT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE HELD IN ZAMBIA.

8. OVER LUNCH THE PRESIDENT ASKED FOR AN UPDATING ON ZAIRE. LOW REVIEWED RECENT REPPORTS. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS COMPANIONS SHOWED LACK OF INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF THE FIGHTING OR THE NAMES OF THE TOWNS INVOLVED. MOST OF THE REST OF THE LUNCHEON
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CONVERSATION WAS SPENT REMINISCING OVER THE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, EVERY PART OF WHICH THE PRESIDENT SAID HE ENJOYED.
LOW

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